THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) Expenditure incurred by Mahanadi Coalfields Limited on peripheral development is as under:—

Year	Expenditure (Rs. Lakh)
1999-2000	289.92
2000-01	310.00 (Provisional)
2001-02	300.00 (Approximate)

(b) Regular sand stowing is being done in the three underground mines namely Deu Bera Colliery, Talcher (DERA) Colliery and Handidhua Colliery. Jagannath Colliery being an opencast mine does not require stowing.

(c) As far as MCL is concerned, no allegation regarding depression of the surface land has been received.

(d) Depression of surface land due to mining are not known to lead to earthquakes.

Policy Initiative for Sustainable Development of Coal Sector

4262. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken note of the recently presented Paper on "Policy Initiatives for Sustainable Development of Coal Sector" at Indian Minvest 2001;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government on the measures suggested in the paper;

(c) whether Government are considering any cut in coal freight charges or giving some subsidy in freight charges;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, reasons thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The paper reflects on the status of the coal industry in the country, mentions the policy initiatives already in place such as foreign direct investment and status of private mining for captive end-use and the new policy initiatives such as introduction of Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Amendment Bill, 2000 to allow non-captive coal mining by Private Sector, complete overhaul of regulatory framework, pricing of non-coking coal on GCV basis, level playing field for the private sector, railway freight rationalisation and extension of incentives/financial concession to coal sector. Other major issues relevant to making the Indian Coal Competitive have also been mentioned.

(c) The new policy initiatives mentioned therein alongwith the issues raised relevant to making Indian Coal Competitive have engaged the attention of the Government.

(d) and (e) The domestic coal industry requires substantial relief from the burden of high Railway freight. The Government is already seized of the matter.

Effect of Non-Posting of Regular CMD's in Subsidiaries of CIL

4263. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that working of subsidiaries of Coal India Ltd. are affected due to non-posting of regular CMD's for quite long period;

(b) if so, the reasons for the delay in the posting of CMD's in these subsidiaries;

(c) whether appointment committee of cabinet is considering the names short listed by Public Enterprise Selection Board for the post of Chairman, CIL and its subsidiaries; and

(d) if so, time by when full time official will be posted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) to (d) At the level of